

**Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Programs and Alternatives Standing Committee
April 8, 2009**

Peter Schuler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Susan Andrews	Sara Carpenter	Mike DeMares
Dick Manke	Lisa McClean	Donna Martinez
Meg Schnabl	Peter Schuler (chair)	Jane Batha

Committee Members Absent:

Harlow Beilefeldt	Diane Keslner	
Linda Van De Water/Donald Hassin	Pat Millichap	James Pearson

Also Present:

Elizabeth Frederick	Barbara Nordberg	Linda Galko
Wendy Roeber	Kathy Miller	Tracy Thacker
Daniel Werbie	Rebecca Luczaj	

Introductions

Correct Care Solutions: Jail AODA Services Program Update

Frederick said budget cuts over the past few years have forced them to be more creative with ideas and scheduling. Werbie said funding is available to provide mental health services and AODA classes five days per week. Last year the program served an average of 300 to 375 inmates per month totaling more than 4,000 for the year. A recent restructuring of the schedule decreased the wait time for inmates and offered more services to the female population. People are impressed with the AODA services in the jail.

Werbie said she focuses on relapse because it goes hand-in-hand with recidivism. She has been investigating different types of programs and adapting those curriculums to her programming. She is also looking into health concerns and effects of addiction. Frederick said the classes focus on a new subject every week such as the definition of addiction, family, communication, anger management, relapse, coping, release planning, etc. UW-Extension runs nutritional classes. They also work with AA to find sponsors before inmates are released.

Luczaj asked how do people get into the program? Werbie said when we do mental health screening, we inform inmates of the programs. A brief AODA assessment is also done. The programs have a mix of people with different levels of motivation. Groups have up to 15 members. Male groups are generally larger than the female ones. Written materials are given to those who are not allowed to participate. Batha asked what happens if someone is released before they finish the program? Schnabl said they cannot return to finish once they are released.

Frederick said the program revamp reorganized the schedule breaking it into a 12 week program and adding more program time for females. Werbie said the modules are open ended with a flexible entry/exit system. With a set schedule, it is hoped participants will get all topics. Schnabl said judges have allowed sentence reductions for attending the program. Eighty to 90% of inmates have AODA issues.

Schnabl said we are dealing with horrible addictions that will not be cured with 12-week programs. A lot of people attempt treatment over and over. Schuler said the struggle is the issue. It is important they don't feel like they are operating in isolation. It is important to continue the programs. If we decide to draw the line at

three strikes, four strikes or even 24 strikes, it means we have given up on people. Our job is to believe in people. It is important to build connections between jail programs and outside programs. Manke said aftercare is very important.

Schuler said this committee reviews programs for and makes budget recommendations to the CJCC Executive Committee. Program continuation, financing and changes are between the program providers and the jail. He is not anticipating a cut in base funding to the CJCC though it will be a budget struggle year. Contracts without increases will have to be negotiated. The county will be faced with huge decisions.

Schnabl said in the past the county board approved \$250K to improve the program area of the jail. Many areas are empty. Schuler said when those improvements were planned, it was thought that great things would be done with that space but then the budget was cut. The programs in the jail are working.

WCTC Jail Adult Basic Education Program Update

Schnabl said this program which started in 1990 and is one of the most valuable programs took a huge budget hit this year. Nordberg said a budget shortfall of \$57K will not allow them to continue to provide the program at current levels. They are studying different areas of cognitive restructuring for the program with the help of a WIRED grant. Of the 214 inmates in the program last year 76 had not completed high school. Testing revealed that many of the inmates with high school diplomas have a third to fourth grade education. The number of inmates without a high school diploma is increasing. The Basic Education Program includes an ABE counselor, GED testing and instructors (from WCTC's budget) in the jail. The program serves more males than females and contracts out for ESL services. The program offers a book club to read books, watch DVDs and discuss the stories.

Galko said for approximately 15 years she has been teaching at the jail, hoping to motivate her students to continue with educational programs even after they leave jail. Galko distributed and reviewed a handout titled *WCTC Classroom Opportunities and Policies*. She explained that the first page outlines the offered programs and classroom policies. The second page follows students' progress through the program and page three outlines students' personal education plan and goals. She asked the career counselor to provide another day of programming because career counseling is big in the jail. Math, financial affairs and personal management skills classes go over very well. There is a waiting list to enter the program and they are always looking for volunteers. Galko shared several success stories with the committee.

Luczaj asked why is the program short \$57K? Nordberg said they lost grant funding and could not reapply for it. They are excited about infusing the information from the cognitive restructuring into the program. The WIRED grant allows them to do research but not programming.

Schuler asked how do we find money for the program? Nordberg said WCTC's president is meeting with County Executive Vrakas and Director of Administration Cummings to seek help in finding funding. The college is also seeking other grant opportunities. Nordberg said the County Executive mentioned Community Block Grant Funding and not matching funds. Schnabl said part of the problem with grant funding is that seed money is needed for new programs plus it is temporary. Luczaj suggested United Way funding. Nordberg said if she is unable to secure additional funding, Galko will be the only instructor and will work fewer hours, there will be no summer school and fewer students will go through the program.

Galko said there will be a Recognition Ceremony on April 30 at 1 p.m. to recognize those have completed different levels of their educational programs including GEDs, workshops and employability skills classes. Schnabl said the county board, county executive, governor, sheriff, etc. have been invited to attend. It will be a nice program.

CJCC Highlights

Luczaj distributed and reviewed a handout titled *2009 CJCC SAMHSA Grant Application Overview*. The grant could provide up to \$300K per year for three years to increase the capacity of ATC. Matt Hiller and Sara Carpenter have committed to help her assemble the application for submission. Waukesha County will propose to use the grant funding to add an additional “track” to ATC by accepting fourth OWI offenders who would benefit from more intensive AODA treatment. The grant would fund an additional case manager, “treatment slots” from community providers, continued evaluation from Temple University, supportive services such as child care, education and transportation, and travel to three of the grantees meetings/conferences per year. In order to continue the program when the grant funding ends in three years, additional grant funding would need to be secured, fees would be charged or the program would be reduced to only serving third OWI offenders at the current capacity of 55.

Andrews said many providers do not offer intensive outpatient treatment because insurance will not cover it and the county has to pick it up to fill the gap. DeMares said a single case manager couldn’t provide intensive treatment.

Carpenter said she has received phone calls from halfway houses wanting to work with ATC. Schuler said it is worth a try to talk to providers to see if they would help with the program. A lot more work is needed before this plan is completed.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Children of Promise Program Overview

Miller said Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is putting more effort into their services due to the increasing and unique needs in Waukesha County. Because the number one priority for the organization is child safety, all mentors go through five background checks, are required to be 18 years of age or older, have drivers licenses and provide references. Volunteers are asked for a one-year commitment and the average stay is 18 months.

Thacker said the Children of Promise Program is a special mentoring program for children ages six to 16 years-of-age with family (parents, grandparents, siblings, other relative or relative the child lived with prior to incarceration) who are currently incarcerated in prison, jail or even halfway houses. The program pairs kids with carefully screened volunteer mentors who introduce the youth to positive experiences and new opportunities through one-on-one friendship.

The BBBS of Metro Milwaukee supports 287 mentoring relationships in Waukesha County including mentoring at four Waukesha elementary schools: Blair, Saratoga, White Rock and Whittier. BBBS partners with Carroll University, Volunteer Center of Waukesha County, GE Healthcare, H.K. Systems, Kohl’s Corporation, etc. BBBS has found that children in their program are 51% better prepared for school, 61% had improved academic performance, 58% had better relationships with adults and 81% were more self-confident. BBBS programs are a means for the community to come together to help the youth by building relationships, trust and connections.

Thacker said single moms are willing to sign up their boys in our programs but not as willing to sign up their daughters. Nationally women volunteer more than men. The organization needs help identifying families with girls that want to be part of the program. Miller said BBBS helps kids from larger families do things their parents don’t have time to do and allows parents free time away from their kids. The program doesn’t replace parents. There is a large list of boys who need mentors with some having to wait two to three years before a mentor is found. Teens are more difficult to place than younger children. Women can mentor boys up to the age of 12, men are always matched with boys and couples typically mentor girls.

Carpenter asked if training is provided? Thacker said volunteers go through an orientation that includes child safety, drop off rules, cultural awareness, role playing, etc. Volunteers are given continued support and weekly check-in calls from BBBS' assigned Match Support Specialists to make sure all is well and safe and to insure volunteer longevity with the program.

Carpenter asked how does BBBS assist with the transition when a volunteer's involvement ends? Miller said sometimes the split just naturally happens when kids get busy. BBBS tries to rematch children with other volunteers if their volunteer needs to leave the program. Sometimes the child wants to leave the program. Children are not accepted into the program unless they want to be in it.

Thacker said volunteer applications are available online at www.bbbsmilwaukee.org.

Next Meeting Date

- Wednesday, May 13, 2009 @ 8:30 am, HHS Boardroom

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.